

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claim 14 has been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-17, 19-20 and 24 are presented for examination.

In the Office Action, claims 14, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that claim 14 has been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance.

Claims 1-17, 19, 20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,854,086). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Umen.

Umen discloses a document production system for preparing documents and managing a database of information pertaining to investigational studies of medical products. See Umen at Abstract. Uman further discloses a data management user interface (DMUI) that provides section headings that may be included in the document templates for identifying various sections of each document. The DMUI provides a template selection menu that allows a user to select a document template. For example, the user may select an FDA report template from the menu. See Umen at col. 17 ll. 24-55.

Claim 1 of the present application recites specifying parameters for each format region defining an area on a document page. Applicants submit that Umen does not disclose such a feature. Instead, Umen discloses using templates to format a document (e.g. an FDA report template). Such a template formats all the regions of a document according to the template. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Umen.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and include additional features. Thus, claims 2-9 are also patentable over Umen.

Claim 10 recites receiving a set of parameters, where one or more parameters of the set of parameters correspond to each format region. Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 10 is patentable over Umen. Because claims 11-16 depend from claim 10 and include additional features, claims 11-16 are also patentable over Umen.

Claim 17 recites associating each identifier with one of one or more regions defining an area on a document page at a second computer, wherein each data record is formatted within the one or more format regions. Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 17 is patentable over Umen. Because claims 19-20 depend from claim 17 and include additional features, claims 19-20 are also patentable over Umen.

Claim 24 recites associating each identifier with one of one or more format regions at a first computer, each format region defining an area on a document page. Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 24 is patentable over Umen.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.


The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to IBM Corporation's Deposit Account No. 50-3669.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980